



# NEWS

**Federal Communications Commission**  
**445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.**  
**Washington, DC 20554**

**News Media Information 202-418-0500**  
**Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>**  
**TTY: 1-888-835-5322**

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.  
See *MCI v. FCC*, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

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**NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:**  
Matthew Berry, 202-418-2005  
Email: [Matthew.Berry@fcc.gov](mailto:Matthew.Berry@fcc.gov)

## **STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER AJIT PAI ON THE CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT TO END THE QRA BENCHMARKS**

Today is a good day for rural America. For over a year, I and many others have warned that the quantile regression analysis (QRA) benchmarks adopted in the 2011 *Universal Service Transformation Order* have increased regulatory uncertainty, chilled the investment climate, and impeded the deployment of broadband to rural Americans. That said, the benchmarks have been a feature of the FCC's Universal Service Fund reforms for over two years. Accordingly, it is no small matter, either in terms of policy or politics, to change course.

It is with gratitude, then, that I welcome and applaud Chairman Wheeler's announcement that he intends to end the QRA benchmarks. Ending regulatory uncertainty is the right thing to do, especially given that the QRA benchmarks did not save the Fund one dollar. I am hopeful that today's news means that bringing next-generation technologies to our nation's rural citizens will be a priority during Chairman Wheeler's tenure, and I look forward to continue working with him to make that happen.